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CONTRACTING ORGANIZATION: Parkinson's Action Network  
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## **INTRODUCTION:**

On June 24, 2010 PAN hosted a panel discussion at Georgetown University featuring leading experts in the field of research. This discussion focused on the drug development pipeline, and how the different stages of drug development can work together in a better way to hasten the development of new drugs and therapies. Over 500 people from across America have viewed the Webcast to-date. We expect more people to view the archive of the Webcast on the PAN website here:

<http://www.parkinsonsaction.org/parkinsons-disease/emerging-therapies-webcast> . The discussion on the program was not specific to Parkinson's disease and is applicable to clinical research generally. PAN hopes this will prove to be an invaluable resource, not only to the Parkinson's disease community, but all communities focused on speeding the development of new drugs and therapies.

## **BODY:**

The Parkinson's Action Network (PAN), like many other disease-focused organizations, is concerned about the lack of therapies that reach the stage of clinical testing and the even smaller number of therapies that ultimately are approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and made publicly available. Through the generous support of the US Army Medical research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC), PAN hosted a Webcast public panel discussion in Washington, DC on the emerging therapies in Parkinson's disease treatments on Thursday, June 24, 2010 to educate the Parkinson's community about this issue. More than 500 individuals have viewed this two and one half hour Webcast entitled ***Emerging Therapies in Parkinson's Disease: From Microscope to Marketplace*** and the feedback from viewers has been very positive

On June 24, leading experts in the field of research joined PAN at Georgetown University for a panel discussion on the drug development pipeline. This insightful discussion provided participants with a better understanding of how research is moved through the pipeline and ultimately into the hands of patients in the form of new therapies and drugs.

The panel consisted of:

### **Howard Federoff, M.D., Ph.D.**

Executive Vice President for Health Sciences and  
Executive Dean of the School of Medicine, Georgetown University -- Moderator

### **James P. Bennett, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.**

Chair, Department of Neurology and Founding Director of the  
Virginia Commonwealth University Parkinson's Disease and  
Movement Disorders Multidisciplinary Research and Clinical Center

**Story C. Landis, Ph.D.**

Director, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke,  
National Institutes of Health

**Raymond T. Bartus, Ph.D.**

Executive Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer, Ceregene, Inc.

**Jackie Hunt Christensen**

PAN Minnesota State Coordinator and Clinical Trial Participant

**Janet Woodcock, M.D.**

Director, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration  
422 people participated in the Emerging Therapies Webcast live and an additional 80  
people have viewed the Emerging Therapies Webcast archive which is available online  
at <http://www.parkinsonsaction.org/parkinsons-disease/emerging-therapies-webcast>.

The discussion on the program was not specific to Parkinson's disease and is  
applicable to clinical research generally. PAN hopes this will prove to be an invaluable  
resource, not only to the Parkinson's disease community, but all communities focused  
on speeding the development of new drugs and therapies.

The lively panel discussion generated far more questions than the panelists were able  
to respond to. As a way to address these questions, PAN created a discussion page  
where a selection of questions from the Webcast is posted. PAN encouraged  
researchers and clinicians to take this opportunity to respond to these questions and for  
others to post new questions arising from this Webcast.

**KEY RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS/REPORTABLE OUTCOMES:**

- Live Emerging Therapies Webcast held on June 24, 2011 viewed by 422 individuals throughout the country.
- Archived Emerging Therapies Webcast viewed by more than 80 additional individuals to-date available online at <http://www.parkinsonsaction.org/parkinsons-disease/emerging-therapies-webcast>.
- Discussion page created for researchers and clinicians to answer questions of those who viewed the live Webcast.

## **CONCLUSION:**

PAN has received very positive feedback from this pioneering Webcast project. Because this Webcast was so successful, PAN plans to launch a series of three one-hour Webcasts on specific emerging therapies sub-topics in 2011. Each panel in the series will include experts in the specific topic areas. Each panel will also have a studio audience of 50 people and be broadcast via webcast throughout the country to hundreds of people with Parkinson's disease, their families, caretakers, as well as physicians, researchers and leaders in the Parkinson's community.